

What's Inside:

St. Mary's Holds Second Annual Blue Mass p. A3	Q & A with Mrs. Connelly p. B1	Senior Trip Recap p. G2
--	--------------------------------	-------------------------

First Quarter Dean's List Announced

It may be hard to believe, but the first quarter of the 2017-18 school year has already come and gone! The top 5 students on the Dean's List are listed here, but *The Marian Gazette* staff has the inside scoop on the Top 20 in each class for the first quarter of the school year, and will share it with you on page A4. Congratulations to all who made the list this quarter, and remember, there's still ample

time to get those grades up! Here's to the best school year yet!

Freshmen:

1. Alyssa Okon
2. Katelyn Laistner
3. Brandon Thome
4. Isabelle Comstock
5. Molly Callahan

Sophomores:

1. Jeff Zoyhofski
2. Jillian Szeluga
3. Madison Nuttle
4. Rebecca O'Connor
5. Carolynn Steffens

Juniors:

1. Julia Hartloff
2. Caitlin Bish
3. Kailey Kline
4. Nicholas Pronobis
5. Jacob Wilk

Seniors:

1. Chelsea Okon
2. Ryan Tytka
3. Shannon Murty
4. Christina Federico
5. Jacob Was

REMINDER: THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL CLASS RANKING, BUT A LIST OF THE TOP AVERAGES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE '17-'18 SCHOOL YEAR. THE NUMBER ON YOUR REPORT CARD LISTS YOUR OVERALL CLASS RANK, WHICH MAY DIFFER FROM THIS LIST!

New Members Inducted into National Honor Society

On November 14, 2017, 23 new members were inducted into the Marian Chapter of the National Honor Society at St. Mary's High School.

The new members are (in alphabetical order): Kristen Barczykowski, Patrick Basil, Libby Benzer, Caitlin Bish, Ashley Cruz, Claire Fahey, Christina Federico, Sarah Filion, Julia Hartloff, Kailey Kline, Nicole Kruse, Athena Mohamed, Hannah Mulhern, Olivia Nasternak, Brianna Propis, Susan Romance,



Summer Slade, Payton Stachewicz, Jessa Syracuse, Emma Trapper, Matthew Vallone, Tara Wanat, and Jacob Was.

Congratulations to all of our inductees! St. Mary's can't wait to see all of the amazing things the future holds for you!

School News... A	The Arts... D	Photo Pages... G
Faculty Spotlight... B	Alumni News & Updates... E	
Sports... C	Student Beat... F	

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Thank you to everyone who read and enjoyed the first edition of *The Marian Gazette* last month—it truly meant a lot to receive so much positive feedback! Hopefully this month's edition provides you with the same amount of (or even more) entertainment and information. Feel free to leave me any thoughts or suggestions to continually improve these newsletters.

Make sure to check out this month's "Guess the Teacher" contest on the Faculty Page, since the first person to email me the correct answer wins a prize!

Once again, we're always encouraging any prospective writers or journalists to send in possible story ideas or finished articles that could be published! Any *Marian Gazette* articles or inquiries can be sent to my email: 19bpropis@student.smhlancers.org.

Writing has always been a form of escape and serenity for myself, so witnessing others who exercise and appreciate the beauty of writing is a notion I try not to take for granted. I'd wholeheartedly love to read any pieces that could possibly be published for our *Marian Gazette* readers, so don't be afraid to demonstrate your skills and send them to me! In other words, *carpe diem!*

Though it's arguably cliché to continually include inspirational quotes in my editor letters, I've always held this particular Latin phrase in high esteem in an attempt to shine light on its simplicity and brilliance every chance I get. In our incredibly distracted world that seems to always be planning ahead, it's easy to forget the concept of solely living in the moment (especially amid the upcoming holiday madness).

Appreciating one's current surroundings and reflecting upon them every now and then has become gradually more and more difficult—which is the reasoning behind my adoration for writing, because it allows a person to conjure up their true convictions and musings and transform them into characters, plots, personal reflections, informative articles, or simply put, *words*.

Clearly, I could go on and on about the rather unique concept of writing, but lastly I advise anyone wishing to channel their thoughts for just a moment or two to put down their phones or Christmas shopping lists and write. Seize the day!

Sincerely yours,
Brianna Propis

Calling all writers!

Do you like to write? Are you passionate about St. Mary's? Do you have a particular interest you'd like to share with an audience?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then come join us at *The Marian Gazette*! We are currently looking for student writers for all of our news sections. If you are interested, please contact Student Editor Brianna Propis, Mrs. Roberson, or Miss Kawa.

School News

St. Mary's Holds Blue Mass to Honor First Responders

On November 1, 2017, also known as All Saints Day, St. Mary's took the opportunity to hold its second annual Blue Mass. A Blue Mass is a Mass to honor first responders, who typically dress in blue uniforms.

Senior and head of the Lancer First Responders, Andrew Wargo, coordinated the day's festivities, bringing in a group of about 30 brave men and women from local fire stations, police departments, and ambulance companies to attend the Mass at Our Lady of Pompeii Parish.

The Mass included an opening procession, special memorial for five fallen First Responders (including Officer Craig Lehner), and each company present received a special gift from St. Mary's.



Members from over six different companies were present at the Blue Mass.

Wargo, a Volunteer Fire Explorer himself, knows the importance of honoring those who give so much of themselves to help keep the community at large safe: "These men and women do so much for us, so it's the

least we can do to give them some recognition like this."

As a Senior, Wargo knows that other members of the Lancer First Responders will pick up the torch and plan another Mass next year.

This Mass next will be a Green Mass, honoring those actively serving in the military and our veterans.

You can catch a feature done by Channel 4 on the Mass at wivb.com.

Junior Class Honored at Ring Blessing



Deacon Robb speaks to students at the Ring Blessing

During the Thanksgiving Prayer Service at St. Mary's, the entire Junior Class was acknowledged for completing over half of their journeys as Lancers.

Each member of the class was called by name and asked to stand for recognition.

In addition to this general recognition, Juniors were able to bring in their new class rings or some other small keepsakes to be blessed by Deacon Robb.

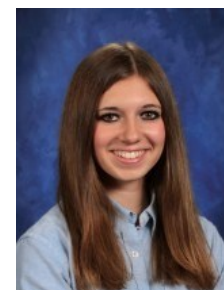
It is the hope of the administration and faculty of St. Mary's that these mementos will bring students a sense of pride in both themselves and their school along with a sense of comfort that God is with them every step of the way, as they complete their next two years at St. Mary's

School News

Dean's List Cont.

Freshmen Top 20 cont.	Sophomores Top 20 cont.	Juniors Top 20 cont.	Seniors Top 20 cont.
6. Mackenzie Kwilos	6. Daniel May	6. Claire Fahey	6. Jake Fay
7. Lillian Mikula	7. Sara Bojarski	7. Hannah Mulhern	7. Shae Anotonicelli
8. Adam Bova	8. Mary Owczarczak	8. Olivia Nasternak	8. Sophie May
9. Mekensie Weinholtz	9. Marguerite Kellner	9. Sarah Filion	9. Eric Brown
10. Makenna Wanat	10. Kerry Sullivan	10. Brianna Propis	10. Libby Benzer
11. Laura O'Brien	11. Samuel Mickel	11. Susan Romance	11. Summer Slade
12. Connor Schmitt	12. Kelly Cleversley	12. Juliet Carl	12. Jillian Vitale
13. Jenna Szymkowski	13. Kayla Bestpitch	13. Emma Dillon	13. Kelsie Allen
14. Laura Fontaine	14. Meadow Slade	14. Matthew Rosinski	14. Heather Gotro
15. Madison Meredith	15. Emma Ridolfi	15. Joyce Hunziker	15. Zackary Laistner
16. Sean Brown	16. David Persico	16. Ashley Cruz	16. Antonio Marino
17. Benjamin Stegmeier	17. Myla Kline	17. Emily Renkas	17. Peimin Lin
18. Matthew Snusz	18. Julia Livingston	18. Megan White	18. Rachel Cichocki
19. Matthew Walter	19. Brendan Murty	19. Emma Trapper	19. Emily Bookmiller
20. Madeline Cole	20. Rachel Pokornowski	20. Alex Denz	20. Kristen Barczykowski

Sisters Leading the Pack



Sisters, Chelsea Okon '18 and Alyssa Okon '21, are on top of their respective classes. So, we caught up with them to see what's in that Okon blood that makes them so successful inside the classroom.

Q: What are a few factors that have helped you become so successful at St. Mary's?

C: I consider myself very lucky to attend SMH, so I feel like pushing myself academically is my way of showing my parents, teachers, and others how thankful I am to attend such an amazing

high school. I'm sort of a perfectionist too, so when I decide to do something, I want to do it right the first time. Most importantly however, I need to thank my family, friends, and teachers for my accomplishments at St. Mary's. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

A: One major factor is the encouragement and support from my family and friends. They help guide me and give me advice to continue being conscientious, and they are the reason I try my best, and I do push myself to be better. I also appreciate all my teachers do for

me and my fellow students. I am also involved in extra-curricular activities because I feel that taking a break from schoolwork can be very beneficial.

Q: What are some studying tips you could give to other students?

C: For me, I find that it helps if I study several times for a shorter amount of time rather than studying once for several hours the day before the test or quiz. If I study for too long at once, I feel like I just start

Continued on F1

Faculty Spotlight

Faculty Q & A with Mrs. Connelly

Last month's "Guess the Teacher" featured a few facts about Mrs. Connelly, so here's a deeper interview with one of SMH's favorite teachers...

Q: When did you start teaching at St. Mary's and what has been your fondest memory?

A: "I started teaching here in 2004. The students I've taught and the teachers I've worked with throughout the years are my fondest memories."

Q: Since you attended St. Mary's in the past, what has changed?

A: "When I attended St. Mary's, the male students were allowed to smoke outside on school grounds."

Q: Who is your personal hero and why?

A: "My father because I admired him for his compassion and intellect. He was such a scholar and became a social studies teacher as well. All of the students loved him."

Q: What/who inspires you?

A: "Well, my father inspired me to teach, but my students inspire me everyday because it's truly a learning process; not only students learn but the teachers learn as well."

Q: Knowing all that you do now, if

you could give your high school students any words of wisdom, what would you say?

A: "Try to experience as much as you can while you can— travel, broaden your horizons, go away to college."

Q: Any piece of advice for students struggling to decide on a college University or major?

A: "I would definitely advise them to go away to college if they can and give it a try— the reason being is the

exposure to so much more, such as different people and cultures."

Q: Anything else you'd like to share with *The Marian Gazette* readers?

A: "Mr. Kelleher let my son drive when he was only 10 years old. It was Mr. Kelleher's dad's (my brother) brand new SUV, too!"

Mr. Fay's Corner



"Shopping done yet?" Sunday Dec. 3rd begins the shortest possible Advent season. The fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. The liturgical year and Advent begin with the words of St. Mark: "Be Alert."

Amid the shopping, parties, gift exchanges and family celebrations, it is all too easy to become complacent and too familiar. Many will write about the commercialization of Christmas, but familiarity and complacency may be more subtle factors. There is the tendency to forget that we recall,

remember and celebrate a real birth, to real people, at a real place in real time. Our complacency robs us of wonder and awe, our enthusiasm and excitement, our joy and hope. The greatest gift, life with Christ, is lost in the bows, paper and ribbons of the time.

Our prayer then for the St. Mary's family is that joy subdues routine, hope overcomes apathy, and faith motivates celebration. May the joy, hope, peace and faith of the Incarnation be with our community. Benedicat vos omnipotens Deus. twf+

Guess the Teacher

Each month, *The Marian Gazette* will feature a different person in our "Guess the Teacher" section. If you think you know who this month's teacher is, submit your guess to Student Editor Brianna Propis at 19bpropis@student.smhlancers.org. *Limit one guess per student and the first to submit the correct answer wins. The winner will receive a Tim Horton's gift card!*

- This teacher hiked Mt. Marcy, NYS's highest mountain, at just one mile above sea-level twice— once in the summer & then in the winter.
- His or her grandfather invented the golf-cart.
- He or she was a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and years later, a Cubmaster.
- This teacher is Chair of an organization that has raised around \$15,000 over the past few years that helps the less fortunate locally, nationally, and internationally.
- This teacher is a pescatarian.

Sports

Men's Soccer Takes Home the Title

The St. Mary's Men's Varsity Soccer Team took home the Monsignor Martin Division B Title this season, capping off an extraordinary 16-win record.

The title game featured a 6-1 victory over Cardinal O'Hara. Luke Szablewski and Liam Regan scored two goals each and Anthony LaRosa and Brendan Murty had single tallies for the Lancers, who captured their second straight division championship.

Aside from the championship, the soccer team had eight First Team All-

Catholic selections: Player of the Year Nino Marino, Defensive Player of the Year Matt Vallone, Luke Szablewski, Jeff Rosner, Josh Cicielski, Anthony LaRosa, Kyle Schaffstal, and Noah Winiarski. The Lancers also had four second teamers, including: Brendan Murty, Liam Regan, Dino Fudoli, and Nick Levea.

Senior Nino Marino also landed a spot on the All WNY Small School Team, capping off a wonderful high school career.

Congrats, Lancers!



Player of the Year and all WNY selection, Nino Marino leads the Lancers against O'Hara

Anticipation Rises for Varsity Hockey Season



By: Lucas Prince and Cameron Ruggiero

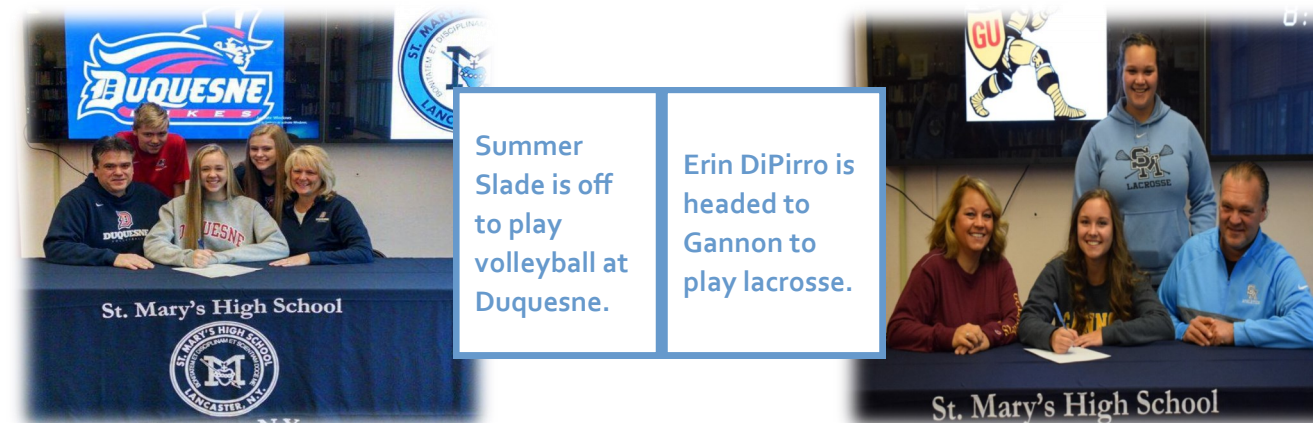
As the St. Mary's Varsity Hockey season gets into full swing, there are high hopes due to the team's championship season last year. As a second-year team with a slew of new players, a lot of people are questioning how the team will perform in the Federation Hockey League — a faster and harder division against the top teams from

the best schools in the area.

Come support your team and find out December 1 at 6:00 p.m. as the Varsity season kicks off against Lockport at Cornerstone Arena.

Signing Days Begin for Senior Student Athletes

In what is sure to be an exciting couple of months for St. Mary's student athletes, the first two signing days have come and gone.



Summer Slade is off to play volleyball at Duquesne.

Erin DiPirro is headed to Gannon to play lacrosse.

St. Mary's High School

Sports

Women's Volleyball Wins 16th State Championship

Sure, the number of championships may sound like a lot— 16 state titles is unheard of for any type of program in any sport. But, as Coach Pieczynski says, each new season and new team brings its own challenges and own personalities that make each season something special. The road to number 16 was without question, something special.

The Lancers were on top of the WNY polls all season, with wins over perennial powerhouse and rival Eden, #1 large school Williamsville East, and capturing their seventh Monsignor Martin League title in a row.



While down in New York City for the state championships, the Lancers triumphed, 25-16, 25-20 and 25-20 over Kellenberg Memorial, who

the Lancers lost to in pool play. St. Mary's won four of five matches in the tournament, defeating Mary Louis Academy of Queens and

Kennedy Catholic of Somers, 2-0, in pool play and losing to Kellenberg, 25-20 and 25-19. The Lancers then defeated Mary Louis, 25-21 and 25-20, in the

semifinals before taking on Kellenberg again for the championship.

In terms of statistics for the tournament, Senior Summer Slade had 53 kills, Hannah Mulhern had 39 kills, and Kelly Cleversley had 31. Jillian Vitale had 136 assists in the 5 games, and Jasmine Brundage had 45 digs.

Men's Volleyball Makes It to Finals

The men's volleyball team put together an incredibly strong campaign all year long, before eventually falling to Canisius in the Monsignor Martin Championship 3-0.

Seniors Eric Brown, Pat Basil, and Christian Szablewski were named to the First Team All-Catholic squad and Junior Jake Wilk was named a member of the Second Team.

Way to go, Lancers!



Winter Sports Schedules Online



Want to come out to support your Lancers on the court, on the ice, on the wrestling mat, or on the track?

Check out smhlancers.org for all of the winter sports schedules to see when and where your Lancers will be in action!

GO LANCERS!



The Arts

Spring Musical Announced: *Once On This Island*

The St. Mary's Performing Arts Department has made the big announcement that the 2018 Spring Musical will be *Once On This Island!*

Here is a little preview of the show, straight from the *Once On This Island* website:

"Once On This Island is the tale of Ti Moune, a fearless peasant girl who falls in love with a wealthy boy from the other side of the island. When their divided cultures keep them apart, Ti Moune is guided by the powerful island gods, Erzulie, Asaka, Papa Ge, and Agwe, on a remarkable quest to reunite with the man who has captured her heart.

Bursting with Caribbean colors, rhythms and dance, the story comes to vibrant life in a striking production that transforms the reality of a tropical village devastated by a storm into a fantastical world alive with hope.

Come and gather around for *Once On This Island*, a triumph of the

timeless power of theatre to bring us together, move our hearts, and help us conquer life's storms."

This production promises to be one of the liveliest and brightest shows St. Mary's has ever brought to the stage!

We can't wait to see what our amazing Performing Arts Department and students will do with such a wonderful production!



Logo Competition

Are you an aspiring graphic designer who would like to see his or her work published for all of our readers to see?

The Marian Gazette is looking to cement its place in school newspaper history with an awesome logo! Have any ideas on how to create a distinct look?

Please send all artwork as a jpeg, png, PDF, or a hand-drawn piece to Miss Kawa at akawa@smhlancers.org or leave a copy for her in the Main Office.

Auditions

Stay tuned to school announcements and St. Mary's social media channels for further information on when and where auditions will take place for *Once On This Island!*

Auditions will be open to all students looking to take their turn in the St. Mary's spotlight. Lead roles and spots in the ensemble will be up for grabs!



Photo courtesy of *What's Up*

Alumni News & Updates

Reunions Recap

This month, the class of 1992 celebrated their 25th reunion at St. Mary's. The night included a live band (thanks to Class of 1992 member, Mike Santa Maria), as well as delicious food from Frank's Grille, SMH swag giveaways, and a tour down their old stomping grounds. A wonderful time was had by all! *(See picture at right)*



If you are an alum who graduated in a year ending in a 3 or an 8, keep your eyes peeled for a "save the date," which will be mailed out soon for an all-class reunion the weekend of June 29 and 30, 2018!

Alumni Quick Hits

- Hayley Lampart '12 wowed the audience at Shea's Performing Arts Center this month when she starred as Nicoletta in *Kinky Boots: The National Tour!* Take a look at her with some of her classmates from the Class of 2012 after the show! *(right)*
- Leah Meyer '15 was back home when her Duke Blue Devils made a pit stop to practice at SMH en route to a match against the Syracuse Orange. *(right)*



- It was quite the Election Day for John Brusco '77! He won the 8th District County Legislator position. Congrats, John! We can't wait to see all of the great things you do in office! *(below)*



Alumni Updates

Know any alumni who have moved, had a baby, celebrated an engagement, just got a promotion, or experienced another exciting life event?

Let us know at smhlancers.org or by contacting Dean of Advancement & Alumni Relations Amanda Rebeck at arebeck@smhlancer.org or 716-683-4824 ext. 237.

Student Beat

Sisters Cont.

From A4

C: to jumble everything together, and don't actually retain the information I need to remember. Also, it's important to make sure you're completely focused while studying, so it's usually best to study somewhere without your phone or other distractions. It's also important to not get discouraged when you study. If you don't understand something, don't just give up. Go through it a few times, and then come back to it later, and you'll usually feel at least a little better about it. It might sound silly, but making up crazy mnemonic devices really helps too.

A: One tip that I have is to start studying in advance. This may seem simple or unnecessary to some, however it is important that you don't just study the night before because it is difficult to retain the large amount of information in one night. Another tip would be to make a study guide or worksheet for yourself.

It helps if you write things out and visualize them.

Q: How have your teachers contributed to your academic success?

C: A good teacher can make all the difference. There have been classes where I couldn't stand the subject or material, yet I ended up doing pretty well and almost enjoyed the class simply because of an amazing teacher. I feel lucky to have so many amazing teachers at St. Mary's, who are willing to do nearly anything for their students. The outstanding passion that they have for teaching and for the school is what really makes the St. Mary's community a family.

A: The teachers are a huge part of my success. They want me to succeed, and they give me everything I need to do this. They encourage me to be resilient, and

they always believe in me. I feel very privileged to be a part of such a wonderful school.

Q: What role do your parents play in helping you stay on track with your school work?

C: My family plays a major role in who I am as a student. People often think that my parents must be super strict and expect me to be perfect. That couldn't be further from the truth. Of course they want me to do well, and they're proud of what I've accomplished, but they always tell my sister and I that we need to relax and have some fun. From the time we were little, they really let us focus on school, extracurriculars, and just being kids.

A: My parents encourage me, applaud me, and believe in me even when I might not believe in myself. I want to do well academically to show them and thank them for giving me the privilege of going to St. Mary's.

Navigating Passport Issues in NYC

By: Sally Wan

On October 14, I went to Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in New York for my passport-related problem. I need to get a new one in order to go back to my own country after graduation. I made a reservation online and got into the building successfully; it was the first time I was doing these kinds of things by myself. I was pretty nervous and problems actually occurred. I did not have the appropriate pictures, so I took a new one there, which took me a long time because there were tons of people.

After the lady asked me to make a copy of my student visa and I posted all of my information to her, she told me to get the new passport at a certain date, but the real problem was she took my old passport from me! I asked why because I needed that to take my flight back to Buffalo. She said that is what they do with it, and they will return the old and new passport to me together, but I just could not accept it. How was I to get home?

I thought they would let me keep the old passport. I was lost. I texted my host parents, and they said I might need to take a bus if I am not able to get onto the plane. Thankfully, in the end, I did not need any forms of ID because I am under 18, so I was able to take my flight back to Buffalo.

I was so glad that I did not need to waste too much of my time on my way back to Buffalo. This was just one of the interesting things that I went through as an international student in New York City. There are always so many good learning experiences as I continue my journey staying in America.

Student Beat

7 Reasons You Should Watch...*Star Wars*

With *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* making its debut in just **TWO WEEKS**, Junior Nicole Gorney gives her take on what makes the series so special.

By: *Nicole Gorney*

1. It's a Classic

Star Wars: A New Hope (originally just titled *Star Wars*) premiered in 1977, and ever since then it has taken the world by storm. With its memorable characters and classic lines (such as the iconic "No, I am your father!"), most likely everyone has at least heard of the title.

2. It Makes You Believe in a Galaxy Far Far Away....

Every episode, including *A New Hope*, begins with "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...." appearing across the screen, which straps audiences in for an adventure in this distant galaxy full of lasers and lightsabers, and a story containing a big heart and creativity. It's also easy for audiences to relate to the concept of a good friendship where you would do anything to help your friends.



Photos: Truegif.com



Photo: Disney.com

3. The Action

If you're not into the storyline all that much— which revolves around a devilishly handsome smuggler, his furry companion, an audacious princess, and a farmer turned pilot each facing off against an evil galactic empire— then you're in luck because the film has even more to offer. In *A New Hope* alone (not including any of the sequels or prequels), there are loads of action scenes. They range from shooting lasers at one another in a hallway to lightsaber fights between an old master and his apprentice, as well as blowing up a huge battle station. What's not to love about that?

4. You'll Want to Find Your Chewbacca

After watching the movies, you'll probably want to find someone to ride passenger with you the same way Han travels with Chewbacca. Then you'll even be able to reference the quote: "Punch it, Chewie!"

5. The Design

Nowadays, the film industry arguably uses CGI for almost every movie made. This originated around the late 1990s and early 2000s. Considering the original *Star Wars* came out in 1977, and therefore couldn't utilize CGI, everything was made by hand including the infamous Vader mask.

It's always fun to pay attention to the background and find little details placed there. With CGI, movie sets are practically all made up of green screens, so the actors really have to show off their talent since there's virtually nothing to work off of. In *A New Hope*, the actors get to interact with their surroundings because they're in a palpable setting, which adds to the film's genuineness.

6. It's Disney

George Lucas sold his company, *Lucasfilm*, to Disney for \$4 billion in 2012. Who doesn't love Disney? Apparently not many people, since the franchise has raked in \$37 billion over the past 40 years.

7. Merch is Everywhere

If you happen to watch *Star Wars* and enjoy it, you're in luck because merchandise for the franchise is practically everywhere! Try walking into a Target or Walmart and not coming across a T-Shirt or lunchbox with a Star Wars reference on it— it's practically impossible—due to how beloved the films are by audiences of all different ages and cultures.

Student Beat

Badminton Club Is a "Hit" with Students

By: *Brianna Propis*

Are you interested in playing badminton outside of gym class? If so, you're in luck! St. Mary's has recently revived its Badminton Club thanks to the action taken by certain students after they noticed an increased interest in the racquet sport from themselves and other students.

Juniors Nick Pronobis and Megan White have successfully reinstated the Badminton Club here at St. Mary's with the special assistance of Anya Achtyl, and all are welcome to join.

"I originally heard about a Badminton Club at St. Mary's during my freshman year, but never attended any meetings because at the time I hadn't played before and didn't know

who was a part of the club to ask them about it," explained Pronobis. "During my sophomore year, my friends and I unfortunately learned the club was discontinued, so this year for no reasons other than a peaked interest in the sport and gaining the support of my friend (and new student) Megan White, we rallied for its creation."

Kickstarting and maintaining a school club certainly requires a plethora of dedication and teamwork, though the benefits that can be reaped from taking on this responsibility certainly outweigh the headaches.

"I've realized that starting and sustaining a club takes a lot of responsibility and work, which in turn makes having a friend with equal interests helpful in

proposing big decisions. I believe there is still some work to be done, but it's nothing we can't handle. I have faith in my fellow captains and team to uphold a good year with more to come in the future," said Pronobis.

He encourages any students that desire to start their own club at St. Mary's to put forth their best effort to do so, considering our faculty, fellow classmates, and even prospective students can acknowledge the commitment and hard work put into the club's development and foundation.

Badminton Club meetings are held every other week on Thursday in the Gus. See Nick, Megan, or Anya for more information.



Student Collecting Ornaments for Elderwood Residence

Junior Matthew Rosinski has taken it upon himself to collect ornaments for the residents of Elderwood to honor the memory of his late grandmother, who was a former resident there.

Matthew will be collecting new or homemade ornaments each day from now until December 8th in a box in the front foyer. He will then take the donations to Elderwood to help bring some holiday cheer to those who may

not have much.

When asked why he wanted to go about fulfilling such a noble cause this Christmas, Matthew said, "Though my grandmother was there only a short time, I noticed that not all of the patients had family visit or decorations in their rooms. I believe that the ornaments collected in this donation will bring them cheer."

We are calling on the St. Mary's community

to help Matthew out in any way you can! Thank you!

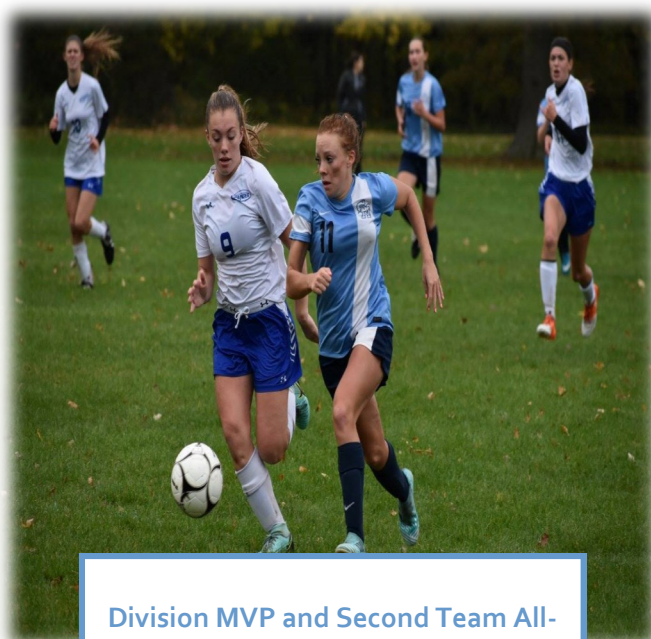


Sports Photo Page

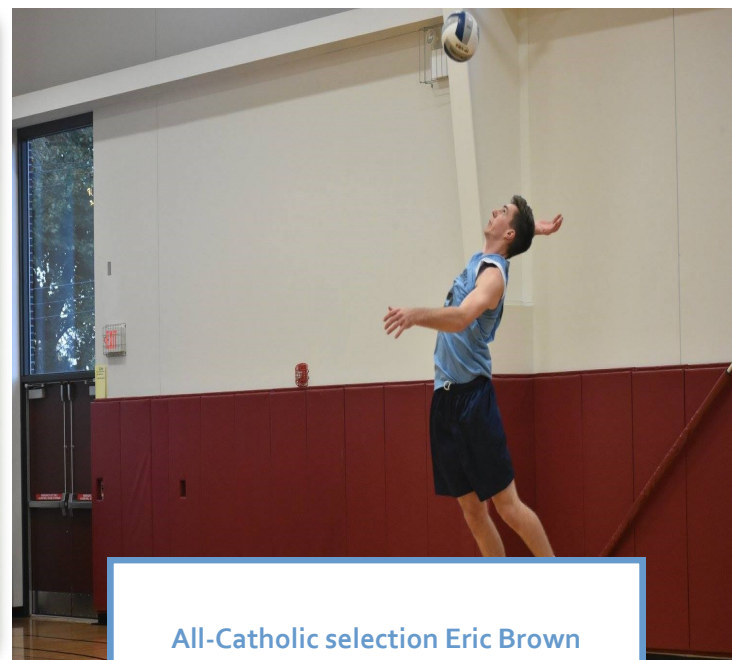


Nicholas Walter laces up his skates.

Photo courtesy of Chloe Isbrandt



Division MVP and Second Team All-WNY selection Skye Baun leads the Lancer attack



All-Catholic selection Eric Brown serves it up!



All-Catholic selections (from left to right) Hannah Mulhern, Jill Vitale, and Summer Slade collect the league championship trophy!

Disney Trip Provides Memories for All

By: Ahmad Powell

In November, the Senior Class took a trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. It was the trip of a lifetime! We went to three different parks and a water park while we were there.

The first day we got there, we went to the Typhoon Lagoon water park, and at night we went to Disney Springs. We went to Animal Kingdom on the second day and Magic Kingdom the last day. The third day, we got to choose between Epcot or Hollywood Studios.

The Typhoon Lagoon water park was a great start to our trip, and the water slides and wave pool were great. Later, we all got dressed in our finest and went down to Disney Springs for shopping and dinner.

At Disney's Animal Kingdom we went on many different rides, but the best ride was in Pandora and it was called Flight of Passage. You got to ride on the back of a banshee as you explored the world of the Avatar. It felt like you were actually there, and it was an amazing experience.

At Hollywood Studios, we rode the Tower of Terror and Rock 'n Roller Coaster. However, Magic Kingdom was the best day of the trip. It just so happened to be Mickey's birthday when we were there, so the park was very busy and the lines were very long, but it was still super fun; even the lines were worth the wait! The best ride in Magic Kingdom was Space Mountain, a roller coaster in the dark that felt like you were in outer space.

I enjoyed spending a week with my classmates and being able to grow closer with my friends and make new friends as well. It was an amazing trip, and we are all sad it's over!



Fireworks Dazzle

Photo credit: Nicole Nazzarett

One of my favorite parts about being in Disney for the Senior Trip was watching the fireworks in The Magic Kingdom. This is a picture of the fireworks going off around Cinderella Castle. During the fireworks, the castle was lighting up and music was playing from all different movies that Disney has produced.

Senior Trip Photo Page



For even more SMH photos, make sure to follow us on Facebook (St. Mary's High School, Lancaster NY)! We post a weekly photo album of all the exciting things happening at our school!

School Calendars - December 2017



December 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 SAT Exam
3	4	5	6 Class Meetings Ext. Homeroom Schedule	7	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Liturgy Snowball Dance 7pm - 10pm	9 ACT Exam
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Christmas Show 6pm	21 Special Schedule Christmas Prayer Service & Christmas Show Fac/Staff Luncheon 2:30pm	22 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 NO SCHOOL Christmas Day	26 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	27 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	28 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	29 NO SCHOOL Christmas Break	30
31						

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL DECEMBER 2017 <small>Menu is subject to change.</small>					Personal Touch	Personal Touch Food Service Chef Manager: Ryan Covelli
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	1	
				CHICKEN CORDON BLEU	1	
GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH V Tomato Soup V Fresh Fruit Cup V	TACO TUESDAY! TACO SALAD Seasoned Corn V Pineapple Cup V	CREAMY SPINACH TOMATO TORTELLINI V Seasoned Green Beans V Side Salad V	Build Your Own BAKED POTATO Dinner Roll V/WG Corn on the Cob V	Seasoned Broccoli V Applesauce V	8	
CHICKEN POT PIE Side Salad V Baked Apples V	TACO TUESDAY! TACO IN A BAG Cilantro Lime Rice V Mexican Corn V	LASAGNA V Garlic Bread V Tomato & Cucumber Salad V	Build Your Own BURGER BAR Assorted Toppings French Fries V Fresh Fruit Cup V	CHICKEN CAESAR WRAP Potato Chips V Roasted Vegetables V	15	
LEMON GARLIC GRILLED CHICKEN Seasoned Asparagus V Wild Rice Blend V/WG	TACO TUESDAY! GRILLED CHICKEN TACO Tortilla Chips & Salsa V/WG Pico de Gallo V	MACARONI & CHEESE V Side Salad V Roasted Cauliflower V	CHRISTMAS DINNER HONEY GLAZED HAM Cheesy Potatoes V Garlic Green Beans V Dinner Roll V/WG	CHRISTMAS BREAK NO SCHOOL	22	
	CHRISTMAS BREAK NO SCHOOL	CHRISTMAS BREAK NO SCHOOL	CHRISTMAS BREAK NO SCHOOL	CHRISTMAS BREAK NO SCHOOL	29	

SERVED DAILY:

- Entrées \$ 3.50
- Salad - Large V \$ 3.25
- Salad - Small V \$ 2.15
- Fresh made Soup \$ 1.30
- Cold Sub, Wrap \$ 3.50
- Intense Milk V \$ 1.75
- Milk & pint \$.80
- Juice Cup V \$.60
- Bottle Water V \$ 1.00
- Pizza, all varieties \$ 2.75

BREAKFAST A LA CARTE

- Breakfast Combo \$ 3.50
- Breakfast Sandwich WG \$ 3.30
- Breakfast Burrito \$ 3.25
- Bagel with Butter V \$ 1.25
- Cream Cheese V \$.60
- Hash Brown V \$.75
- French Toast Sticks WG/V (5) \$ 1.95
- Greek Yogurt V \$ 1.75
- Fresh Fruit Cup V \$ 1.95
- Cereal with Milk V \$ 1.40

LUNCH A LA CARTE

- Fresh Baked Cookie V \$.55 or 2/\$1.00
- Bag of Chips V \$ 1.25
- Hot Pretzel V \$ 1.35
- Fresh Fruit V \$ 1.25
- Vegetable of the Day V \$ 1.15

Complete Lunch Includes:

- 1 Entrée
- Choice of Side
- Milk or Bottled Water \$4.30
- With Intense Milk \$5.00

WG = Whole Grain
V = Vegetarian*
*Allows egg and milk
Alyssa's Better Choice Healthy Entrées

For the latest school calendar updates, please visit smblanders.org.